

BICKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Bickleigh Parish Council which was held on **Thursday 25th March 2021 at 7.30pm**. The meeting was conducted remotely via Zoom.

There was an open forum of 15 minutes at the beginning of the meeting to allow members of the public to ask questions or make comment regarding the work of the Council or other items which affect the Parish. No members of the public were in attendance.

Councillor Jackie Taylor mentioned that there were a number of vehicle parts and unmarked vehicles parked outside the Argaum Club and it looks as though they are being broken up there. Discussion was had about whether this would need planning permission for change of use, even though it is private land.

Councillor Jackie Taylor also commented on how good the Woolwell in Bloom planting looks and all agreed to thank the group for their hard work, particularly during this difficult time.

The meeting convened.

Present: Councillors B Spencer (Chair), C Spencer, L Taylor, Blight, Haymes, J Taylor and Tamsett-White

Not Present: Councillor Rundell

In Attendance: Helen Nathanson (Parish Clerk), District Councillor Hopwood

1. To receive apologies.

There were no apologies.

2. To declare any personal or pecuniary interests in items on the agenda and the nature of that interest.

Standing Interests with dispensation:

Councillors C Spencer and Haymes have a pecuniary interest as employees of the Woolwell Community Resource Trust.

Councillor Barrie Spencer has a personal interest as a member of the Woolwell Community Resource Trust.

3. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 25th February 2021.

It was resolved to approve and sign the Minutes.

4. To raise any matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

There were no matters arising.

5. To receive reports from County and District Councillors.

County Councillor John Hart gave his apologies. He explained that Covid-19 is reducing but has not gone away – he likened it to a forest fire because the fire is now out but there are embers that still flare up and need stamping out. 3 District Councils are now having an increase in cases being reported, however the South Hams is proving to be the one of the best places to live with few cases. He urged people to keep following the rules.

District Councillor Barrie Spencer

SHDC has been looking at how it can help with the increases in visitors to the area when lockdown lifts.

£588k has been allocated to recovery in the South Hams to keep it looking nice and support local businesses and key towns in the District. Councillors expressed disappointment that so much money was going to other places whilst parishes like Bickleigh which are not tourist areas did not benefit from extra spending.

Ward Councillors are being given £3k each for climate change and biodiversity projects in their wards. Councillor Carole Spencer suggested that the PC look at potential projects in the parish which might tap in to this funding.

District Councillor Hopwood explained that any projects need to align with the SHDC Climate and Biodiversity Strategy and it was agreed to have further discussions about this.

6. To receive updates on the Woolwell Centre, including:

- A building survey, schedule of condition and reinstatement cost survey have all now taken place. There is a large amount of detail that needs to be examined and the report will be sent round to all councillors, along with some preliminary work that Councillor Carole Spencer has collated. Discussion was had about how to progress the work and it was agreed to set up a Task and Finish Group to start putting together some recommendations to bring to the April meeting of the Council. All councillors were keen to be involved with the initial meeting and a date was set for Monday 29th March at 7.30pm. Councillor Barrie Spencer will set up the Zoom meeting.
- The roof leak in the Meeting Room has now been repaired and the insurance company notified that we will be making a claim. We are still waiting to hear from them and a reminder has been sent.
- The portacabin electrics have been disconnected and removal of the office furniture to the main building is being arranged.
- Update on reopening routines: Councillor Carole Spencer explained that the Centre is adhering to Government guidelines and not pre-empting anything. As soon as it is possible to set up tables and chairs outside then they will start to serve food again. The after school clubs are up and running and staff are being tested twice a week.
- No updates were available about the progress of the new lease between SHDC and the PC.
- The Assets Working Group will meet on Thursday 8th April to discuss the conversion of the shower room to an office for the Parish Council. The specification will be priced up once the scope of works has been agreed. Councillor Carole Spencer made the point that the condition survey has revealed a number of other works that need doing throughout the building, including H & S issues, and that any decision will need to consider the whole picture and the overall cost and priorities. It was agreed that the office conversion is still a priority and this will be discussed in more detail once everyone has had a chance to meet and read the report.

7. To receive updates about general Parish matters, including:

- Works to trees: the Horse Chestnut on Tavistock Road, Roborough

The tree work did not commence today as planned but contractors have stated that they will be on site tomorrow and it is likely that they will need to return on another occasion to complete the stump grinding. Various suggestions for a replacement have already been received and councillors will contact residents again once the site is clear to talk about further planting.

- The need for an additional speed radar for the Parish.

Councillor Blight suggested looking into a solar powered speed indication device which would perform the same function as the current radar but better and without losing power so quickly. The possibility of connecting the current unit to a pv panel charger was also discussed and extending the option to purchase extra units for all the villages. Councillor Larry Taylor agreed to find out the costs.

The speed radar in Bickleigh will be now be moved over to Woolwell.

- It was noted that the Devon County Council grant for cutting the visibility verges has been confirmed for the next financial year and will be £4,569.

8. To receive an update from the Communications Working Group to accept a recommendation for the leaflet design and print.

Councillor Haymes explained that the Communications WG had agreed the wording to go on a leaflet which will be distributed to homes around the parish. She has quotes from 2 companies to design and print the leaflets in A5 double-sided. The quotes range from £150-160 to £205. She proposed that councillors accept the higher quote because it was from a local company which had been very flexible and helpful in their approach, representing good value. It was resolved to accept this quote and proceed with the design and print of the leaflets.

Councillors requested that, out of preference, recycled paper should be used to lessen the environmental impact. Councillor Haymes will check the cost of this option and any change to the cost will be notified and approved by councillors via WhatsApp.

Delivery is not included in this cost and councillors intend to this themselves.

9. Planning

- Standing Item: To set a date for a follow-up meeting with the planning consultant about the Barwood planning applications 4185/19/OPA and 4181/19/OPA.

Councillors agreed to have another meeting with the planning consultant to work out in more detail what the PC will require from the response to SHDC. The agreed date was Thursday 15th April 2021 at 7.30pm.

- Standing Item: Update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Barrie Spencer invited all councillors to attend a remote workshop meeting to talk through the main points of the NP and look at what changes and improvements might be needed. This work will then be used to approach a NP professional for help with implementation. A meeting was set for Monday 14th June at 7.30pm.

10. To receive an update from the BPC representative for Roborough Recreation Hall.

The Hall remains closed until regulations allow for opening.

11. Finance

- The following reports were noted:
Bank Reconciliation Current and Savings Accounts to date 28/02/2021
Payments and Receipts by Budget Headings dated 22/03/21
Statutory Receipts and Payments dated 22/03/21
- The following payments were approved and the receipt was noted.

Date	Payee	Total	VAT	Net	Details
Nov – March	Future Cooling	£645	£107.50	£537.50	HVAC in the W Centre – monthly contract payments for Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb and Mar
17/3/21	Central Roofing Services	£830.00			Repairs to leaking roof W Centre
1/3/21	Electrical & Security Ltd	£790.80	£131.80	£650.00	Electrical works in W Centre
9/2/21	Devon Property Surveyors	£2,394.00	£399.00	£1,995.00	Buildings survey – W Centre
1/5/21	PKF Littlejohn LLP	£480.00			External Audit year end 2019/20
1/3/21	JAB Hosting	£72.00	£12.00	£60.00	Gov.uk domain name – 2 years
14/4/21	PWLB Repayment	£6,833.66			Direct Debit
06/02/21	Shaugh Prior Parish Council	£50.00			Receipt for Salt gritter

12. The following correspondence was noted:

The Draft Resource and Waste Strategy for Devon and Torbay has been published for consultation – see link <https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/draft-resource-and-waste-management-strategy-for-devon-and-torbay/> and runs from 3rd March to 14th April.

13. To note the date of the next meeting on 22nd April 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom. Please note that Government has not yet extended the legislation which allows meetings to be held remotely and which ends on 7th May 2021. This may therefore impact on Parish Council meetings.

This was noted and the meeting ended at 9.22pm.

Councillor Barrie Spencer
Chairman